

served as pilot, air operations officer, staff director, chief of staff, and commander of the Florida Air National Guard. In 1996, Brigadier General Burnett became the Assistant Adjunct General as well as Commander of the Florida Air National Guard.

On November 3, 2001, for the first time in the history of the Florida National Guard an Air National Guard officer was appointed The Adjunct General of Florida (TAG), overseeing 12,000 soldiers and airmen. As the new leader of all Guardsmen, MG Burnett, who was well versed in blue suit issues, immersed himself in soldier, or green suit, issues including the proper usage of the word hoorah. He studied basic infantry tactics, weaponry and other army equipment. His preparation paid off as he became a wartime TAG. General Burnett set the highest standards for excellence and then led by example to reach and surpass those goals. Using his personality, skill, resourcefulness and the ability to manage and juggle priorities to meet the support needs of the Guard and their families, General Burnett has upheld the highest traditions of the Florida National Guard. He became fluent in two languages—Army and Air Force—and understood that the crew chief on a flight line is as committed as the soldier crawling through the mud. His engaged leadership was the catalyst behind the Florida National Guard being positioned to not only respond to the Global War on Terror but maintain its state duties and react to 14 hurricanes, five firefighting seasons, major tornadoes, and border security missions. More than 11,000 Florida Guardsmen have served in combat zones around the world over the last nine years.

General Burnett worried that his Guardsmen, who were called to active duty, would not be as well equipped as the active duty military units. He worked with the Florida Congressional Delegation and as a result, his troops received both the training and the equipment they needed in battle. This “hands-on” General saw another problem—troops were being deployed not for six months but for longer periods of time. His citizen soldiers left jobs and higher paychecks for military compensation. Debts based on the higher pay still came due even when the service member was “doing his duty.” Families became frightened. So, General Burnett traveled the state explaining to families why their soldiers were serving and promising to support the families. He worked with the Florida Legislature to ensure that Florida offers the military, including Guardsmen, the best benefits of any state.

Under his watch, General Burnett made readiness the watch word of the Florida National Guard. He realized and stressed that you can't take a reserve force and put them on active duty capable of fulfilling the missions unless they are ready. His readiness mantra has served his soldiers and airmen well. The Florida National Guard has built a reputation that its members are not only ready to serve but capable of fulfilling its missions overseas as well as here in Florida.

This Saturday, June 26, 2010, Major General Douglas Burnett will retire after 47 years, four months and 12 days, setting a record as the longest serving Air Force officer. He will miss the people committed like he was to serving his country and state. Florida will miss his dedicated leadership and commitment to excellence.

And on behalf of the State of Florida and the 4th Congressional District, it is my privi-

lege to recognize the dedication, caring and leadership that makes Major General Douglas Burnett a leader among men and an outstanding Floridian.

WELCOMING REV. LANE D. BEMBENEK

HON. BOB INGLIS

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2010

Mr. INGLIS. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize and welcome Rev. Lane D. Bembenek, pastor of the Joy Lutheran Church in Moore, SC.

Pastor Bembenek studied theology in Rock Hill and Columbia, SC, and first pastored a church at the Pine Grove Lutheran Church in Lone Star, SC. In 1998, he began developing a new congregation in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America called Joy Lutheran church. This church has grown into a thriving congregation on the west side of Spartanburg, SC.

Pastor Bembenek is married to Dianna Bonnett Bembenek. They have two sons, Jacob and William.

We very much appreciate his contribution to the people of the Fourth Congressional District of South Carolina.

FORMALDEHYDE STANDARDS FOR COMPOSITE WOOD PRODUCTS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY SUTTON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Ms. SUTTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support for Formaldehyde Standards for Composite Wood Products Act (S. 1660).

And I'd like to commend my friend, Rep. MATSUI, for her leadership on this issue.

This bill will protect the health of American families from high uses of formaldehyde in common household products like flooring, paneling, cabinets, and doors.

Currently foreign manufacturers who use unsafe levels of harmful toxins like formaldehyde are able to undercut domestic manufacturers who put safety above profits.

When a family installs a new countertop or paneling, they expect that the wood products are harmless.

And we must ensure that is the case regardless of where the products are made.

Recently, the Economic Policy Institute published a report stating that 2.4 million American jobs have been lost since 2001 directly because of unfair trade tactics by China.

The report states that in the “wood products” segment, our trade deficit was a negative \$862 million in 2001.

By 2008, our trade deficit in “wood products” alone had more than doubled to \$1.8 billion.

This trade imbalance from unfair trade practices like using cheaper and often dangerous materials like formaldehyde has cost our nation millions of jobs and endangered American families.

Today, we can help to level the playing field for domestic manufacturers by taking action against unsafe amounts of formaldehyde.

Vote yes on Formaldehyde Standards for Composite Wood Products Act.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL ROBERT E. CROWLEY

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2010

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to our country are exceptional. The United States has been fortunate to have dynamic and devoted men and women who willingly and unselfishly dedicate their lives in service to our country. Colonel Robert E. Crowley is one such individual. Saturday, June 26, 2010, is Colonel Crowley's change of command ceremony at March Air Reserve Base in California, when he passes on his duties as Commander of the 358th Civil Affairs Brigade and retires from the United States Army. Colonel Crowley assumed command of the 358th Civil Affairs Brigade on August 9, 2008. The brigade, headquartered at March Air Reserve Base, California, consists of four Civil Affairs Battalions located in California and Arizona.

A native of New London, Connecticut, Colonel Crowley was commissioned an Infantry Officer in 1982 through the University of New Hampshire Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program and qualified as a Civil Affairs Officer in 1994. His previous commands include Commander, 404th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne) and Chief of Civil-Military Operations, United States Southern Division, HQDA. His overseas assignments include: Iraq, Haiti, Colombia, Ecuador, Bosnia, and Macedonia.

Colonel Crowley's military education includes the Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Combined Arms and Services Staff School, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff Officer Course, the Joint Combined Warfighting Course, and the National War College. Prior to his current assignment as the Commander of the 358th Civil Affairs Brigade, Colonel Crowley was assigned to the National Defense University in Washington, DC, where he earned a Master's of Science Degree in National Security Strategy and was selected distinguished graduate. In addition to his master's degree, Colonel Crowley holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science.

Colonel Crowley's awards include the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, and Army Staff Identification Badge.

Colonel Crowley is the proud father of Elizabeth, Sarah, and Robert E. Crowley, III.

As we look at the incredibly rich military history of our country we realize that this history is comprised of men, just like Colonel Crowley, who choose to live their lives in service to our country. He joins a unique brotherhood that, from the first shots at Lexington during our own revolution, has stood to protect us and defend the ideals of freedom and democracy. I know we are all grateful to Colonel

Crowley for his lifetime of service and salute him as he retires after 28 years of honorable service in the U.S. Army.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$13,041,849,923,645.94.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$2,403,424,177,352.14 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

HONORING RON GETTELFINGER FOR HIS LEADERSHIP OF THE UAW

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE DRIEHAUS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. DRIEHAUS. Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to the dedicated service of Ron Gettelfinger, the outgoing president of the United Auto Workers.

As UAW president for the last 8 years, Ron worked tirelessly to renew America's manufacturing sector, and move American manufacturing forward with focuses on advanced technology and renewable energy development.

During a time when American manufacturing was on the decline, and the American economy began sinking into the deepest recession in generations, Ron fought hard to keep jobs here at home, and was a leading voice for workers' rights.

Whether pushing for a fair wage or standing up for expanded access to health care, Ron Gettelfinger has been an unwavering advocate for all of America's working families. He understood that the middle class and manufacturing are the backbone of our Nation's economy and the root of America's prosperity.

His leadership will be missed.

NO, GOP, YOU DON'T GET THE CAR KEYS BACK

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2010

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I submit the following article: "No, GOP, you don't get the car keys back" by Gene Lyons of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette as printed in The Baytown Sun, May 25, 2010.

One minor mystery of the Obama administration is whether the president has actually

believed that the nation's most intractable problems could be solved by the wonder-working power of bipartisanship and the emollient balm of his personality. He wouldn't be the first politician whose ego convinced him he could sweet-talk his bitterest opponents.

Many Democrats think that the White House's ultimately futile quest for Republican health care votes only gave GOP imaginers more time to frighten gullible voters with falsehoods about "death panels" and such, weakening public support.

Until quite recently, it's been much the same with jobs and the economy. Despite unanimous Republican opposition to the administrations' \$787 billion stimulus bill and universal predictions of doom, the White House has often acted as if the party's reasonable leadership would eventually return to the politics of negotiation and compromise.

Instead, we've seen the GOP increasingly dominated by its irrational Chicken Little wing, seeing grim portents and predicting doom. Continuing their party's decades-long war on Arithmetic, Republicans act as if the highest form of patriotism is to demand tax cuts even as a USA Today analysis documents that "Americans paid their lowest level of taxes last year since Harry Truman's presidency . . . Federal, state and local taxes—including income, property, sales and other taxes—consumed 9.2 percent of all personal income in 2009, the lowest rate since 1950, the Bureau of Economic Analysis reports." The historic average has been 12 percent.

Meanwhile, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the U.S. economy generated 290,000 jobs in April, the strongest month in four years. That brings new jobs created in 2010 to 573,000.

And how did GOP savants respond to the good news? Citing the unemployment rate, House Minority Leader John Boehner called it "disappointing news . . . Washington Democrats have no coherent agenda to create jobs, and no interest in doing anything but continue to spend money we don't have on 'stimulus' programs that don't work."

Don't work? The National Journal's Ronald Brownstein puts things in perspective: "If the economy produces jobs over the next eight months at the same pace as it did over the past four months, the nation will have created more jobs in 2010 alone than it did over the entire eight years of George W. Bush's presidency." It's a fact. Should current growth persist, the U.S. economy will gain roughly 1.7 million jobs this year. From 2001 through 2008, the Bush economy generated about 1 million.

Of course with 15.3 million Americans out of work, we're far from being out of the woods. Indeed, the nation's quickening economy has actually led to a slight uptick in the unemployment rate, as thousands who'd given up seeking work rejoined the labor market. But we can definitely see a path to greater prosperity.

Meanwhile, Republicans keep baying at the moon. On a recent "Fox News Sunday," former House Speaker Newt Gingrich gravely announced that "The (Obama) secular-socialist machine represents as great a threat to America as Nazi Germany or the Soviet Union once did."

Even host Chris Wallace was taken aback, asking "Mr. Speaker, respectfully, isn't that wildly over the top?" Gingrich didn't think so.

A sane political movement would keep a prating coxcomb like Gingrich off television. Whether Newt actually believes this rubbish, or is merely following the Tea Party fife and drum corps around the bend, strikes me as of little interest. Politically, it's pointless to

reason with crazy people—make-believe or real.

Speaking recently in Buffalo, president Obama signaled that maybe he gets it. "When I took office," he said "we were losing 750,000 jobs a month. . . . I had just inherited a \$1.3 trillion deficit from the previous administration, so the last thing I wanted to do was spend money on a recovery package, or help the American auto industry keep its doors open, or prevent the collapse of Wall Street banks whose irresponsibility had helped cause this crisis. But what I knew was if I didn't act boldly and I didn't act quickly . . . we could have risked an even greater disaster."

Then, at a Manhattan fundraiser, Obama came up with the perfect metaphor. He said that Republicans had made a calculated decision to oppose all White House initiatives, and to hope for the worst. "So after they drove the car into the ditch, made it as difficult as possible for us to pull it back, now they want the keys back. No! You can't drive! We don't want to have to go back into the ditch! We just got the car out!"

Give 'em hell, Barrack. Over and over until they get the message.

GRANTING SUBPOENA POWER TO COMMISSION INVESTIGATING BP DEEPWATER OIL SPILL

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY SUTTON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Ms. SUTTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support for H.R. 5481 and am proud to be an original cosponsor.

I'd like to commend Rep. CAPPS and Rep. MARKEY for their leadership on this issue.

The National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling must have subpoena power.

Last week, BP CEO Tony Hayward was anything but forthcoming in his answers before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

And through Congressional investigations, we have already learned that standard methods were not followed by BP and that shortcuts were taken to maximize profits at the expense of safety.

The Commission must have subpoena power and BP must be held accountable for the consequences of their unsafe approach.

We must take the necessary actions on behalf of the American people to ensure that reckless and careless decisions at the expense of our environment, our workers, and our economy are forever abandoned.

THANKING RUSSELL HENLEY, ERIK COMPTON, AND HUDSON SWAFFORD FOR THEIR FINE REPRESENTATION OF UGA AND THE STATE OF GEORGIA AT THE 2010 U.S. OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2010

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank three members of The